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## THE EVENING BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 1855.

**POST-OFFICE ESPIONAGE.—VIOLATION OF LETTER SEALS.**—The recent case of the trial of the postmaster at New Orleans for abstracting money from letters has revealed the fact that the secret agents of the post-office have been in the habit of opening letters that are suspected to contain information that may lead to the detection of offenders against the laws. On the testimony of a mail agent and a postmaster's clerk, it appears that the mail agents "carry keys to open mail bags"—that "they have access to them at all times"—that "they open letters and use decoy letters"—that they do the former "frequently"—that in opening these letters they carry them away from the post-office, and if they destroy an envelope or deface a post-mark, they forge another, and that the Department, although it does not specifically approve these proceedings, permits and "winks at" them. This practice, however convenient it may be to the officers of the law, who are seeking for depredators on the mails, or other criminals, is not authorized by law, and is one of the exercise of which is liable to great abuse, and the policy of permitting which is more than doubtful. In opening the district court of the U. S. at New Orleans lately, Judge McCaleb charged the grand jury on this subject. He charged them, that if any individual should take a letter from the post-office and break it open for the purpose only of detecting a thief, it was a transgression of the post-office law, and the offending party incurred the pains and penalties of the statute and that he could not plead in his defense any authority or commission for him to do it, from any functionary, however high. He also instructed them that the law was equally obligatory upon all persons, and that no officer of the government, however exalted, has any dispensing power over the law, or could authorize a violation of it, or dispense with its provisions.

We presume that the Judge has proclaimed what is the law correctly, although some persons may think that the right to violate the privacy of correspondence ought to be sanctioned by law. We believe that more evils would in the end result from the permission of this practice, than all the benefits it might confer by facilitating the bringing to justice of mail robbers and other depredators on the public. Once establish the rule that private letters may be opened at the will and pleasure of a public functionary under the plea of executing a police regulation, and the correspondence of no citizen would be safe from the prying curiosity and the vile schemes which the knowledge thus obtained may engender. The right of visit to our ships on the sea, which we resist so sternly, is a small affair compared to this wholesale scrutiny into private affairs. On the naked supposition that a postmaster or one of his delegates has stolen letters, the detective police of the President or a Cabinet Minister might open the letters containing money, addressed to anybody; and what security would there be that he would not purloin their contents? He might by this vile agency get possession of the secrets of any family and any individual, and he would possess the power and mischievous influence of Fouché himself. Every merchant would have his affairs exposed to the inquisitive eyes of a secret, detective police, organized by the Government and endowed with power to break the seals and open his correspondence. The abuses which might follow such a system are obvious. Spies and delators—that pest and bane of Rome and France—would swarm over the republic, and would be the terror and scourge of the innocent and guilty. The tranquillity and happiness of families, the positions of merchants, the fortunes of men, the peace of society, and the law of the land would be held in the hollow of their hands. They could plant a snare under every step, a spy in every house, an informer in every court, and a conspirator in every office, armed with the tremendous power of watching every member of the community, and wreaking their personal vengeance and that of their superiors—clothing themselves with the forms of justice—upon any person who has incurred their suspicion or resentment.

**COTTON SEED OIL.**—A Mr. Shepherd, of Galveston, Texas, it is announced, is perfecting a valuable invention by which he can produce oil by compression from cotton seed. One hundred pounds of seed yields from twelve to fifteen pounds of oil, which, when properly clarified, is equal to sweet oil for machinery, and is superior to ordinary lamp oil, while it can be sold at one-half or one-third the cost of either. Another source of income is the cake formed of the seed, when the oil is pressed out. It is said to be valuable for feeding hogs and other farm stock. Cotton seed has heretofore been regarded as entirely useless.

**PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION.**—A telegraphic dispatch states that fifty-three members have seceded, but gives no particulars.

The general council was in session last night. The common council passed the resolutions from the aldermen to receive the steam fire engine and authorizing the purchase of six horses for the same.

Mr. Beatty offered a resolution making the members of the former council individually responsible for work ordered by them, for which the present council is called on to make appropriations.

Mr. B. made a speech. He is chairman of the finance committee, and he was not willing that last year's appropriations should be shouldered by the present council, without having it generally understood who expended all the money. He alluded to young America, and also to the newspapers, who are evidently a little too progressive to suit his notions.

We think the Judge has no cause for alarm. No one that knows him (and there are few that don't know him) will ever charge him with extravagance.

Mr. Dunlap had been a member of the old council but a few months, and as his share of the deficit would hardly exceed a couple of hundred dollars, he was willing to pay up without being coerced to it by law.

We left Mr. Pennobaker defending the old council.

**ACCIDENT TO THE FRANKFORT TRAIN.**—The locomotive of the Frankfort train ran off the track last evening on the outskirts of the city. No further damage was done than that occasioned by a slight delay, which, however, might have become provoking but for the decision and prompt dispatch of the efficient conductor, Mr. Kane, and the nimble activity of his assistants. The delay was subsequently compensated by the extraordinary run of 24 miles in 50 minutes including seven stops. Truly the Frankfort train and its conductors are invincible.

**MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC STATE NOMINATIONS.**—The Democratic convention which assembled at Jackson on the 5th made the following nominations for State officers:

For Governor—John J. McRae.  
Secretary of State—A. B. Dilworth.  
Auditor—Madison McAfee.  
Treasurer—Shields L. Hussey.  
Clerk of Supreme Court—J. T. Sims.  
Hon. Jeff. Davis was waited upon by a committee appointed by the convention and addressed the body.

The river was still rising slowly last evening, with 6 feet 8 inches water in the canal. The rise has enabled all the boats to come over the falls, and the wharf was lined with them. These were the R. M. Patton, T. C. Twichell, Tishomingo, Fanny Bullitt, A. L. Shotwell, Madonna, Rainbow, Wm. Garvin, and Queen of the West.

The Shotwell reports the Mississippi rising fast from Natchez to Cairo, and the health was good. There were good prospects for corn crops throughout the South.

The Supreme Court of Maine has just decided an interesting case involving the right of school committees to require the reading of the English Bible in schools. In the town of Ellsworth the children of several Roman Catholic parents refuse to comply with the regulation requiring the English Bible to be read, and being excluded therefore, one of the parents brought an action against the committee. The decision of the court, which is very elaborate, was in favor of the defendants.

A private letter from Martinsburg, Va., states that some abolition emissaries succeeded, on Friday evening last, in enticing from the residence of Hon. C. J. Faulkner six of his slaves. After the slaves had been run off, the telegraph wires east and west of Martinsburg were cut to prevent the transmission of intelligence.

[For the Louisville Bulletin.]  
THE INDIGENT STUDENT'S SORROWS.

Who lives and longs for fame in vain?  
Who for renown each nerve doth strain,  
And failing, struggles yet again?  
The Student.

Who withers beneath Ambition's goad,  
And, ardent, seeks the slinky road  
That leads to glory's bright abode?  
The Student.

What thought he tracks the worlds that fly  
In flaming splendor through the sky?  
Neglected, must he drop and die,  
The Student.

What though the fires of genius glow,  
Though God unequalled gifts bestow,  
And Nature's wondrous workings show  
The Student?

All this but keener anguish brings;  
'Tis his to feel want's fiery stings,  
Unvalued by all living things,  
The Student.

And after all what does he gain,  
But mental toil and mental pain,  
And ghosts of fears to rack his brain,  
The Student?

Ill-fated one! he little knows  
His thoughts—his feelings are his foes;  
His very virtues but oppose  
The Student.

His fervid fancy's sportive play,  
His sensibilities' sweet sway,  
All—all conspire to lead astray  
The Student.

But look! his fond delusion ends;  
Despair his aching bosom rends,  
And through his heart her prickles send;  
The Student's.

Oh! who will soothe his breast forlorn,  
By disappointment's brambles torn  
The rich despise—the poor all scorn  
The Student.

His dearest hopes in death are hushed,  
His highest aspirations crushed,  
His mind with maddening phrensy flushed  
The Student's.

Who could rebellious thoughts control?  
He curses God—destroys his soul—  
Eternal torments 'round him roll.  
Also: The Student.

**THE AMERICAN CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA—SIXTH DAY.**—According to the reports in the Herald and Tribune, the committee appointed to make a platform reported in part on the slavery question. There are two reports. The following are the resolutions of the majority:

**Resolved,** That the American party, having arisen upon the ruins and in spite of the opposition of the Whig and Democratic parties, cannot be held in any manner responsible for the obnoxious acts or violated pledges of either; that the systematic agitation of the slavery question by those parties has elevated sectional hostility into a positive element of political power, and brought our institutions into peril. It has therefore become the imperative duty of the American party to interpose, for the purpose of giving peace to the country and perpetuity to the Union. That as experience has shown it is impossible to reconcile opinions so extreme as those which separate the disputants, and as there can be no dishonor in submitting to the laws, the National Council has deemed it the best guarantee of common justice and of future peace to abide by and maintain the existing laws upon the subject of slavery, as a final and conclusive settlement of that subject in spirit and in substance.

**Resolved,** That regarding it the highest duty to avow these opinions upon a subject so important, in distinct and unequivocal terms, it is hereby declared as the sense of the National Council that Congress possesses no power under the Constitution to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the States, or to exclude any State from admission into the Union because her constitution does or does not recognize the institution of slavery as a part of her social system; and expressly pretermittting any expressions of opinion upon the power of Congress to establish or prohibit slavery in any Territory. It is the sense of this National Council that Congress ought not to legislate upon the subject of slavery within the Territories of the United States, and that any interference of Congress with slavery as it exists in the District of Columbia would be a violation of the spirit and intention of the compact by which the State of Maryland ceded the District to the United States, and a breach of the national faith.

The Tribune's correspondent says the minority presented the following resolution:

**Resolved,** That the repeal of the Missouri compromise was an infraction of the plighted faith of the nation, and that it should be restored, and if efforts to that end shall fail, Congress should refuse to admit any State tolerating slavery which shall be formed out of any portion of the territory from which that institution was excluded by that compromise.

The minority report was signed by the following members of the committee: William F. Johnston, Penn.; A. D. Sperry, Conn.; Thomas H. Ford, Ohio; Anthony Colby, New Hampshire; John S. Sayward, Maine; John W. Foster, Mass.; Nathaniel Green, Rhode Island; Joseph H. Barret, Vt.; Schuyler Colfax, Indiana; D. E. Wood, Wisconsin; J. Cogshall, Michigan; William Phelps, Illinois; twelve in all; also, by Richard Clement, Delaware, and C. D. Deshier, New Jersey, as to the first clause. New York alone of the free States went for the majority report. Iowa was not represented. Minnesota Territory went with New York, as also the District of Columbia, and these with the united South carried the majority report in committee.

Governor Gardner made a boisterous speech, protesting against the resolutions of the majority.

**AFFRAY.**—On Monday a free negro was shot by the mate of the steamer S. F. J. Trabue, which boat was lying at Hickman. The negro had been steward on the Trabue and been discharged. He had since been threatening the mate and following him with a gun. The negro received four balls from a pistol and died immediately. The mate fled across the river in a skiff.

B. Peters, a cooper by trade, and who has relatives in Cincinnati, fell from the wharfboat yesterday morning while intoxicated and was drowned.

A passenger on the Jacob Strader named B. P. Irwin, of Beaver, Pa., was robbed of \$3,500. A negro named John Smuthers was arrested.

We find the following in the Buffalo Democracy. It is a little remarkable that we have had no account of the accident from any other source:

**Steamboat Explosion at Whitehall.**—We have seen a letter dated at Whitehall, June 8, which says: Our town was yesterday thrown into a state of excitement by the blowing up of the steamer Empire, Capt. Geo. Yule, which accident took place about 4 o'clock, P. M., in the basin, in front of Myers & Co's.

The steamer was backing up to get hold of a tow of canal boats, when her boiler exploded, tearing everything on the forward part of the boat to atoms. Pieces of her boiler and some other parts of her iron-work were blown up into the street, and her bell landed on top of a pile of lumber in the yard of Davis's steam mill, and her smoke-pipe was blown nearly over to the grist mill and fell into the lake.

The explosion was terrific, and a more complete wreck you never saw. Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt. Capt. Yule was blown overboard and landed on a pile of coal on the deck of a canal-boat, some two or three rods from the steamer. His injuries are slight—some trifling bruises and an ankle badly sprained is all.

Wm. Collins was in the engine-room, and had just taken hold of the starting bar when the explosion took place. When he came to his senses, he found himself on what remained of the upper deck, some twenty feet from his starting point. His injuries were slight—some few bruises on the body and a cut on the head.

A great trotting race was run over the Queen City course at Cincinnati on Wednesday. Purse stake \$400; mile heats; best three in five, to harness:

T. Oliver, enters b. g. Tom Oliver..... 3 3 2 0 1 1  
O. W. Dimick " b. f. Quaker..... 2 1 1 0 2 3  
Jas. Rockey " s. f. Cream Pot..... 3 1 2 2 3 3 2  
Time, 2:43-2:46-2:43 1/2-2:40-2:46 1/2-2:47 1/2

**IMPORTANT FROM THE RIO GRANDE.**—The Corpus Christi Valley and Advertiser of the 2d says:

The news from Mexico is important and exciting. It appears that orders from Santa Anna were received to arrest and shoot, without ceremony, some of the leading citizens of Monterey and Lampasas—among them Santiago Vidourri, late Secretary of State for New Leon, a man of great influence. The existence of these private orders leaked out, and Don Santiago Vidourri dispatched a courier to Lampasas with the news, and when Gen. Manchaca, Santa Anna's emissary, arrived, he was met by two hundred armed citizens and forced to surrender.

His life was spared in consequence of the manly position he assumed, acknowledging that his orders were to shoot some eight of the leading citizens of Lampasas, and that had he the ability the orders of his superiors would be implicitly obeyed. He did not ask his life, as his superiors would not believe but he had sold the command. This gallant Captain, who is well known by our informant, was alive at last accounts, and the probability is his manly bearing will save him.

The news of these transactions soon spread throughout the surrounding country. Juan Suasa had left Lampasas with 200 men, and would be joined at Villa Aldama, Sabinas, Salinas, etc. by a force equal to 1,000 men.

The whole country is represented as being in arms, and an attempt to take Monterey will be made immediately. The Governor of New Leon, Gen. Cordova, had fled to the interior. The Bishop of Monterey, who visited all the frontier towns last fall, it is now ascertained was a spy sent by Santa Anna to mark the unfaithful. He has also left, but if taken will be roughly dealt with.

This movement, or outbreak, is entirely ahead of Carraval's plans, for although the people were preparing for an issue, the urgency of the case has forestalled the matter.

**ACCIDENT ON THE CENTRAL RAILROAD.**—The Albany Argus of Tuesday says:

The 11 o'clock, A. M., train from this city, yesterday met with a most frightful accident when near Whitesboro', a small station a few miles west of Utica. By the fracture of the forward axle of the locomotive, "David Wager," the train being under a high rate of speed at the time, three of the cars were thrown off the track and completely demolished.

Passengers were, says our informant, sent flying out of windows and through the bottom of the cars, but miraculous as it may appear, but one lady sustained injuries, and hers were not of a serious nature. The wreck presented a most sorry sight, the cars being completely riddled—our informant says "pulverized," and adds: "The passengers, after recovering their first surprise, were equally astonished to think that all were not instantly killed." The escape was truly most fortunate.

**LOUISIANA.**—The Alexandria Republican of the 2d has the following:

The Rev. J. J. Weems, residing above the Gray's Creek settlement, in the Pinewoods, was yesterday killed by a negro boy named Frank, about 15 years old who was living with him, and belonged to a ward. Frank chopped his head off with an axe—only a little white boy was present. Mr. Weems was an industrious, kind-hearted, estimable man.

Speaking of the arrest of British recruiting officers in Boston, the Journal says:

We understand that the investigations made by the U. S. authorities prove that the business of enlisting recruits for the Crimea has been and is carried on very extensively. In some instances, we hear it stated that recruits who had enlisted under Uncle Sam have been enticed away, and induced to enlist in the service of Queen Victoria. The U. S. officers are on the alert for further offenders.

[Correspondence of the New York Express.]

AMERICAN CONVENTION.

PHILADELPHIA, June 11.

The Vermont delegation, which has acted hitherto with the Massachusetts delegation, begin now to be dissatisfied with Mr. Wilson & Co., who, they fear, has come here only to create disturbance, and to break up the convention.

Gov. Johnston, of Penn., has been giving some trouble, so it is said, but the Pennsylvania delegation have met together and passed certain resolutions for his guidance. It is hoped that they will modify his views, as their representative on the platform committee.

But all the indications to-day are, that "Sam" will split upon the rock of slavery, and thus be knocked to pieces. A few abolitionists threaten to secede—and their secession would be useful—but that a few Northern men incapable of appreciating that state of things, will then proffer a platform of no use South and not maintainable in the North, after such secession. The council is not in working condition and is not likely to be. Many of the materials, perhaps most, are of the intractable and indocile order.

The failing of the effort to agree upon what no party ever agreed, or in this country ever can agree, "slavery," is hourly demonstrated. The touching of the subject at all is death to the American Organization, but in spasmodic outbreaks.

The stuff the Tribune prints, as from here, would not be creditable even to the Herald, or Police Gazette. The little tattle of the bar-rooms, and grog-shops, and the stories, it is manufacturing, are of the very lowest order of penny-a-lining.

Though the convention is made up of ultras and extremes on slavery, and is destroying the party by touching the subject in any form—as it is doing—it is also made up of a large majority of upright and capable, though, in the main, theoretical men. They are honest and straightforward generally, and the great damage they are doing to their principles comes only from mixing up irrelevant matters with them.

The platform committee of 31 members met again this morning—when a general palaver took place, on slavery matters—as old as they are uninteresting.

**Location of Bounty Land Warrants.**—Frequent inquiries are made whether bounty land warrants can be located in Kansas and Nebraska Territories. We have ascertained by inquiry that they can only be located on lands subject to private entry, whereas there are none such in the Territories named, and will not be for some time to come; but we understand they will be received in payment for valid pre-emption claims in those Territories on the completion and return of the surveys, or when the claimants are in a condition to prove up their claims, even on settlements made prior to the survey.—Union.

## NEWS ITEMS.

**Forging Land Warrants.**—John W. Boileau, convicted at Philadelphia of forging land warrants, has been sentenced by Judge Kane, of the United States District Court, to three years' imprisonment in the penitentiary.

**The Crops.**—In this section of the State we have been peculiarly blessed with the largest yield of wheat ever before known. There is no danger of famine even if the corn crop should prove a total failure—of which there is now not the slightest prospect. In north Mississippi, eastern Arkansas, and west Tennessee there is a better prospect for an abundant corn crop than we have had for years. The cotton fields are likewise doing well.—Memphis Whig.

[For the Louisville Bulletin.]

## TOWN CLOCK.

**Messrs. Editors:** Please allow me to state, in answer to Mr. Charles Duffield, that the Catholic Cathedral could not accept of the clock for which he informs the public a contract has been entered into, even should the offer of it be made. The Cathedral, I am credibly informed, is to have a clock independent of whatever other clocks there may be in town, and the source whence this clock is to be derived is fixed. The clock will be very superior, will be placed very high up (fifty feet above the openings in the tower as it now stands), and of course will cost the public nothing. How, then, would either public or private utility be enhanced by putting up a smaller clock on an adjoining church, at a cost of two thousand dollars or more to the taxpayers of the city. It is surely all a mistake to suppose that rivalry, or any other improper motive, prompts the inquiry into the expediency or policy of incurring such cost for a clock, which, after being obtained, would be of no use, because superseded by a better one without public cost.

Of course it is only in the light of public cost that I speak of this matter, in that sense being a party interested. With any enterprise apart from what the public may have to bear the expense of, I would not wish to interfere under any circumstances. A TAX PAYER.

**A GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN CAPSTAN POWER.**—We went down to the business wharf yesterday, says the Pittsburg Dispatch, to examine a new plan, the invention of Capt. J. McMillan, of the steamer Silver Wave, for applying the steam power of the freight hoisting engine to the capstan, so as to lift the boat off a bar by her own power. The plan proves perfectly successful—Capt. McMillan feels confident he could fairly haul his boat up a plane with it; it will lift a weight of four hundred tons; two men, in one hour, can do with it the labor of more than twenty in six on the old plan; it works steadily, regularly, and smoothly, without jerk or jar, and apparently without a serious objection, to any feature; yet is so cheap, is so labor-saving, so simple, so naturally suggested, apparently, to any reflecting mechanical genius, that it seems unaccountable that Capt. McMillan should have been left the honor of invention.—The plan is this:

A vertical or upright rod or shaft extends from the bottom of the hold to the cargo wheel shaft: with this it is connected by an iron cog-wheel—made to ship and unship at pleasure, so that either capstan or cargo wheel can be worked by hand, if desired: in the hold, at the middle bulkhead, a horizontal rod or shaft is connected by cog wheels to the vertical shaft; this horizontal shaft extends in a straight line to the spindle or shaft of the capstans, to which it is also attached by cogs. There is the whole invention. The hoisting engine is set in motion by steam; spars set, line thrown over the capstan, &c., as usual, and with one man to pay off the line and one to attend to the derrick and falls, all is ready. If line, spar, ring-belt, capstan or derrick fail not, the mighty mass of steamboat and cargo must move, or pulled "to little bits." The best feature of all, perhaps is, that only two men, at most, need be in any place of danger.

**NEWS FROM EUROPE IN SIX DAYS.**—The New York, Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company have made a contract with Messrs. Husted & Kroehl, submarine engineers, of this city, to remove the "Merlin Rock," lying in the centre of the entrance to the harbor of St. Johns, Newfoundland, which is the only obstruction to the entrance of the Collins and other large steamers into that port. There are now eighteen feet water on the rock at low tide; but as the Collins steamers draw twenty-three feet of water when loaded, the Telegraph Company have contracted to reduce the "Merlin Rock" to twenty-seven feet below mean low water.

When this obstacle is removed, it is probable that most of the European steamers will make St. Johns a stopping place, as it lies directly on their route, and about one-third of the distance from New York to Liverpool, so that a steamer from Europe, at St. Johns, Newfoundland, may have her news telegraphed to New York within six days from the date of her departure from Liverpool.

The contract with Messrs. Husted & Kroehl calls for the completion of the work by the first of September next, but judging from the energy and promptness with which this firm has hitherto executed work of this kind, it may be expected that it will be completed by the first of August, by which time the Telegraph Company will be ready to give us the European news in six days.—N. Y. paper.

**OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI RAILROAD.**—The "fast practice" of a part of the managers of the Ohio Mississippi Railroad, by which they, last week, determined to execute Page & Bacon a note for \$1,158,484 61, payable five days after date, and gave, as security therefor, a deed of trust upon all and singular the property, income, and profits of the said road—with power to sell out, on giving twenty days' notice—was the great topic of conversation yesterday. Many men were astonished at it, while not a few applied harsh epithets to the parties to the scheme. The movement was defended solely on the ground that Page & Bacon would be benefited by it, and that as the road must be sold, they might as well profit by it as anybody else. It was also insisted that those who had taken stock in the company, in lieu of the money which they had deposited with Page & Bacon, would be protected by them after they had purchased the road and all their rights in it, but in what manner was not definitely stated. As for the city, with her five hundred thousand dollars, and the county with two hundred thousand dollars, and individual subscribers with their two hundred and thirty thousand dollars, they are to be sold out, lock, stock, and barrel—because, as is alleged, they would not send \$250,000 more "kiting" after that which they had already spent, without having any hand in its expenditure. St. Louis Republican.











